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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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COMPENSATION BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE

Washington, July 22.—Workmen's compensation for federal employes was approved by the house by a majority of 286 to 3.

Two negative votes were cast, by Congressmen Cannon of Illinois and Dies of Texas. Congressman Stephens of Mississippi was paired against the bill. Mr. Cannon said the proposed law was a pension and not compensation, because it did not provide for the employe contributing toward the compensation fund. When his attention was called to his own state, which makes no such provision, he insisted that contributions should be made by employes.

This measure, introduced by Congressman McGillicuddy, provides for compensation to all injured federal employes at the rate of two-thirds the wages lost during disability, with a maximum of $66.67 a month and not less than $33.33 unless the employe is paid less than $33.33, in which case he shall receive full pay.

In case of death the widow receives 35 per cent of the monthly pay and 10 per cent additional for each dependent child under 18, same to continue until death or remarriage.

In the senate a compensation bill, introduced by Senator Sutherland, has been favored by the judiciary committee, which reported that "a government should be willing to deal with those who do its work as generously as it compels private employers to deal with those who do their work."

This legislation was first urged by the American Federation of Labor and a bill covering this question was introduced eight years ago at the request of organized labor.

The present federal compensation law applies to about one-fourth of the 400,000 federal employes and covers only those engaged in hazardous occupations. For an accident happening in an occupation deemed to be non-hazardous there is no way of obtaining relief except by a special act of congress. In the present congress alone nearly 300 bills have been presented for relief.

CONFERENCE FAILS.

New York, July 22.—The attitude of the Cloak, Suit, and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective association in conferences with representatives of 60,000 locked out employes, has resulted in the abandonment of peace negotiations. The workers demand union recognition and a voice in the rates for piece work. The manufacturers refused and also declined all offers of arbitration.

President Gompers presided at the conference, which continued for six days. The A. F. of L. executive was acceptable to the manufacturers, who declined to consider other citizens, who were named for this position. President Gompers insisted that the garment workers' right to organize be recognized, and declared that even if the workers were starved into submission this would settle nothing.

A citizens' committee, composed of a score of well-known New Yorkers, is assisting the strikers. Last Wednesday this committee published large advertisements in local papers charging that "more than 200,000 human beings are facing hunger in New York city today," and asks that a sentiment for arbitration be created. The committee says the manufacturers broke an agreement which had still more than a year to run and that the union should be supported in its demand for arbitration.

RAILROAD SHOPMEN WIN.

Du Bois, Pa., July 22.—About 1,000 employes of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg railway car shops have won a three days' strike, and secure 15 per cent wage increases, the eight-hour day and recognition of their union, which is affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

These workers discovered that when they tied up the shops and yards that the management abandoned its policy of simply acknowledging receipt of their demands.

30-DAY LEAVE AT NAVY YARDS.

Washington, July 22.—The senate adopted Senator Pittman's amendment to the naval appropriation bill which provides for 30 days' leave with pay each year for all employes of navy yards, gun factories, arsenals, naval stations, etc. These employes now receive 15 days a year, and the Nevada senator insisted that they be placed under the same conditions as departmental clerks and employes of the government printing office and the bureau of printing and engraving.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, July 22.—Garment Workers' union No. 100 reports success in enforcing its new wage scale, which provides for higher wages and better working conditions. A large proportion of the 225 cutters who went on strike have returned to work.

IRON MOLDERS MAKE GAINS.

Omaha, Neb., July 22.—Iron molders who have been on strike for over a month are making steady gains. But three shops are now conducted under non-union conditions.

"NO STRIKE" SCHEME FAILS

Denver, Colo., July 22. — Over 200 cracker bakers, employed by two large companies, are on strike for higher wages and improved working conditions, as a result of the state industrial commission's refusal to support their demands.

Under the law it is illegal for workers in this state to strike prior to 30 days' notice to the commission, on the theory that "both sides will cool off." The bakers complied with the law and the commission investigated. The companies told them competition with eastern concerns made the request impossible. Despite high freight rates to the west and the increased cost of living in Colorado, the commission favored the employers. The workers declined to "cool off." They suspended work.

Shortly afterwards the companies forgot their claims regarding eastern competition and offered to increase wages if the strikers would abandon their union. As an extra inducement the companies offered to install "welfare plans," similar to the Rockefeller "union." Both offers were unanimously rejected by the workers, two-thirds of whom are women and girls.

The companies are advertising for "help" without including the statement that strikes exist in their plants. This is in violation of the state law.

One of the struck concerns attempted, last summer, to deduct from the pay of its employes the cost of insurance under the workmen's compensation law. The workers organized as a result and since then have been affiliated to the International Union of Bakery and Confectionery Workers.

PITTSBURG'S "STRIP" NEEDS PREPAREDNESS

Pittsburg, Pa., July 22.—The attention of a certain class of preparedness advocates is called to conditions in Pittsburg's "Strip," which has been surveyed by the Christian Social Service Union.

Within this area of three-fifths of a mile, located between the Pennsylvania railroad yards and the Allegheny river, 18,000 persons live. A visitor to this district can, according to Rev. R. Earl Boyd, "see sin and shame and poverty and cruelty; he hears the wail of the wearied worker, the sob of the heart-broken mother, the cry of neglected children; he smells the reek of congested quarters, the stench of stables and outlawed wells; he tastes the grime and dirt that he must inhale in breathing; he touches the springs of the district politics and find it a corrupt machine."

In one school in this district 14 nationalities are represented with 718 pupils. Of these 89 per cent are of south or southeastern European nationalities.

The United States Steel Corporation has two plants in the "Strip," and it is stated that: "One thing notable is that there is no provision here by this corporation as in some places for lunch rooms for the men." Outside of a few instances, the survey shows that, "in general, there is little sense of responsibility for welfare shown in the policy of the industrial establishments."

Wages in this area are on a par with other conditions. In a study of one-half block in which 155 iron and steel workers lived it was found that the average rate of wages per week is $10.50; average part of time employed, 4-9; net average income per week, $4.66.

In another block 33 families have 110 members and 174 boarders in 177 rooms, a total of 284 people, an average of 5 1-3 rooms and 8 4-11 people per family. Among these were eight families keeping boarders in three-room apartments and having 28 members and 24 boarders, an average of 6 1-2 persons a family, or over two per room.

RAILROAD EMPLOYES ADVANCE.

Detroit, Mich., July 22.—The following recent gains by the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes is published in the current issue of this union's paper:

Canadian Government Railways increases wages of yard foremen, section foremen, section men and extra gang foremen. A general increase of 20 cents a day is given all others, except monthly rated men, who are increased $5.

Northern Pacific railway revises working rules and rates of pay amounting to approximately $100,000 a year. Overtime and a minimum allowance of two hours for any call after hours are among the important gains in working conditions.

Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad increases rates as follows: Section and gang foremen and section laborers, from 5 to 15 cents a day; carpenters, from 10 to 15 cents a day.

Cincinnati, Indianapolis & Western railway has granted time and one-half for overtime; seniority; 10 days' leave of absence a year with full pay for foremen, and if no vacation is desired foremen are to receive double pay; 26 working days for laborers and five holidays instead of three.

Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia railway has adjusted demands of members and conceded better working conditions.

OPPOSE "NO STRIKE" LAW.

Denver, Col., July 22.—In an address to the local Trades Assembly on Colorado's law which prohibits a strike until 30 days' notice is given a state commission, A. F. of L. Representative Grant Hamilton said:

"And what was the sinister influence that put this law upon the statute books? Exactly the same influence that brought Mackenzie King—the gentleman responsible for the adoption in Canada of the Lemieux act—the manager of the Rockefeller interests, to this state.

"This great concern on the part of those who do not belong to the labor movement is due to the fact that they are thoroughly conversant with and understand full well the value that lies in the right to strike.

"I understand there are some who say there may be some good features in this law. I have not yet found a single individual who can point out one good feature—not one. Destroy the objectionable features, and you destroy the law. The idea behind it all is that the labor movement shall delegate its rights to a commission, and that commission shall dispense them at will."

"NO STRIKE" LAW ILLEGAL?

Colorado Springs, Colo., July 22.—At the convention of the Colorado Bar association, E. P. Costigan, attorney for the United Mine Workers' union, expressed the opinion that the "no-strike" law of this state would not be sustained in the courts.

The law makes it illegal for workers to strike until they have filed a 30 days' notice with the state industrial commission. The speaker declared that the penalties inflicted on strikers for a violation of this 30-days' clause was a violation of personal liberty and created an involuntary servitude that no court would recognize. To show how the law can be used to keep men at work, he referred to Leadville smelter men who suspended work recently without complying with the law and Governor Carlson's threat to call out the militia and have them arrested.

MORE DEADLY THAN WAR.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 22.—Commissioner of Labor Jackson says that if every man of the regular army, along the Mexican border, receives a wound in battle the aggregate number of wounded would not equal the roster of those wounded in the mills of Pennsylvania during the first 152 days of this year.

It is shown that during the period from January 1 to June 1, 1916, 954 workers were killed and 100,287 injured, and on an average 191 workers were killed every month during the first five months of the year and an average of 20,245 were injured each month.

$840 A YEAR IS MINIMUM.

New York, July 22.—Director of the Bureau of Standards Tirrell says an unskilled laborer's family of five persons cannot maintain a standard of living consistent with American ideals on wages that fall below $840 a year. He has studied this question and now, as a practical application of his belief, he recommends that no minimum rate below that figure be established in the street cleaning department for unskilled laborers, stablemen, hostlers and drivers.

HOW LABOR INJUNCTIONS STARTED

Washington, July 22.—Writing in the American Federationist, President Gompers traces the injunction process from its beginning, when it was developed for use in cases not covered by law, until the present time, when injunctions set aside constitutional guarantees.

"Our legal theories and judicial institutions were inherited from England," says President Gompers. "In England, in the early times, the only recourse for losses or damages to property or property rights was through legal procedure in the civil courts to secure an award for damages. But monetary awards were not always full compensation for losses, nor did they afford ample protection against encroachments of feudal overlords upon property or property rights of their retainers.

"There developed the custom of direct appeal to the king or to a representative of the king, known as the chancellor, or the "keeper of the king's conscience."

"The matters involved in such controversies as were brought directly to the king were questions of equity rather than of law.

"The chancellor, who heard both parties, would report to the king advising that either the matter be dismissed or that an order be issued that the offender do what he ought to do or refrain from doing something that would work injustice.

"As time went on, these precedents developed into custom and custom into accepted law. Equity courts became an important part of the judicial machinery of England. The chancellor became a judge, who, without a jury, heard cases for which there was no adequate remedy at law and issued decrees directing that a certain course be carried out.

"These fundamental principles of chancery, or equity, were developed:

"(1) It was to be exercised for the protection of property rights only.

"(2) 'He who would seek its aid must come with clean hands.'

"(3) There must be no adequate remedy at law.

"(4) It must never be used to curtail personal rights.

"(5) It must not be used to punish crime.

"Equity courts have been invoked in times of industrial disputes for the purpose of securing from equity judges restraining orders or injunctions restraining workers from collective action assuring that unity of purpose necessary to make a strike effective; from saying orally or publishing information or doing things necessary to induce employers to agree to better terms and conditions of work, and from profiting by aid and counsel in carrying on industrial contests.

"More than 20 years ago federal courts began to issue such restraining orders and injunctions with great frequency. Since equity courts have jurisdiction only over controversies involving property or property rights, the only seeming justification for the issuance of these restraining orders is the theory that employers' right to do business includes a property right in the labor of employes necessary to carry on the business profitably.

"They assume that property and property rights are infinitely more important than human beings or human rights, and demand that these shall be subordinated to profits and uninterrupted production or transportation.

"It has no bearing upon this argument to stigmatize wage earners wrongfully as lawless and doers of violence. When workers violate law or commit crimes, there is adequate remedy at law. No judge has a right to issue an injunction forbidding commission of crime in advance—neither has an equity court the right to try criminal cases.

"Injunctions have been issued that set aside rights guaranteed workers and all citizens of the states and the United States both by statutory and constitutional law. Restraining orders and temporary injunctions were drawn by lawyers in the pay of employers, presented to equity judges and often signed without even being read, pending, of course, a future hearing. But between the time when they were issued and the future hearing they constituted an order of the court, violation of which could be punished as contempt of court and penalized by fines or imprisonment.

"The terminology used in these edicts was such as to create prejudice against the purposes and activities of the workers by designating them by epithets that carried with them the insinuation of lawlessness and malicious purposes.

"The use of the writ of injunction in industrial disputes was so often in contravention of law and legal justice and subversive to the regular institutions of justice and government that it was fittingly designated as government by injunction. It secured to employers immunity and special privilege and denied workers rights and opportunities. All of this was accomplished under guise of superficial legality in a manner that was outwardly respectable and sanctioned by institutions of justice.

"Thus, like many another beneficient institution, the writ of injunction, which was intended to serve the best interests of the people, became an instrument of injustice and tyranny."

COMMITTEE URGES A WRITERS' UNION

New York, July 22.—The committee on affiliation to the American Federation of Labor of the Authors' League of America has issued a statement setting forth the advantages writers would get from being unionized. The question will be submitted to a referendum vote of the league's members.

The claim that affiliation with industrial workers would "lower the dignity" of authors is answered as follows by the committee:

"The signers of this report believe that if they, as individuals, have dignity, it comes from their work and personal characters. If they do not have it they have forfeited it because of their work or their personal character; and being affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will not harm or help their dignity. Your committee feels that dignity in any true meaning of the word depends upon one's sense of self-respect; and that self-respect, in turn, depends very largely upon whether one is working under fair conditions for fair payment. Since your committee believes that affiliation will help improve conditions of authorship, your committee believes that it will help increase dignity of the truest sort."

With practically the entire motion-picture industry unionized, with the entire dramatic field except the authors organized, the committee asserts that should the Author's league also affiliate to the American Federation of Labor these other organizations would join the authors in correcting evils in the motion-picture and dramatic fields. Furthermore, the committee says, the league would have the moral support of 2,500,000 trade unionists.

Affiliation to the A. F. of L., according to the committee's statement, would help the league in four of its most important purposes and problems. It would give the league more power to correct abuses prevalent in the motion-picture field; it would aid the league in its negotiations for standard contracts in the publishing, magazine, and theatrical business; would help the league in its endeavor to secure universal copyright and to put the United States in the International Copyright league, thereby automatically securing world-wide protection for any matter copyrighted in America; and it would aid the league in procuring other legislation which may be desirable to secure the rights of authors.

SCORE SHAM EFFICIENCY.

Boston, July 22.—Guy Emerson, finance commissioner expert, has discovered that the best way for the city to "save" money is to discharge mechanics, and so recommends.

In reply, Secretary Commerford, of the Metal Trades Council, says:

"The metal trades has saved the city of Boston much more money than was ever saved by Mr. Guy Emerson. With the help of the members of the city council, the metal trades saved the city $1,500,000 in the street lighting contracts alone, and for doing this we paid our own counsel fees. While this fight was on to save the money of the citizens and taxpayers, Mr. Emerson was conspicuous by his absence."

NEW SCALE ON RAINCOATS.

Boston, July 22.—It is announced that the 1,600 men and women employed in the raincoat making industry in this city have started on their new wage scale, which carries with it a 15 per cent increase in all shops the owners of which are members of the Boston Raincoat Manufacturers' association.

This schedule is the one agreed on last February when the strike of these workers was settled. Under the new scale the women are given a minimum wage of $8 a week, after three weeks' experience.

POTTERS TO RE-ADJUST RATES.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 22.—At the twenty-sixth convention of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters resolutions were adopted affecting the wage scale of the sanitary ware branch. A two-year agreement expires next October and the potters will submit their changes to employers some time next month. The latter are organized in the United States Potters' association and maintains contractural relations with the pottery workers.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Lawrence, Mass., July 22.—About 150 iron molders struck to enforce increased wage demands. They ask that rates be increased from $21 to $22.50 a week.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

St. Paul, Minn., July 22.—Stationary Firemen's union has increased wages $10 a month for members employed in local breweries.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

HE WORKS EVERY DAY TO EARN $69 A MONTH

New York, July 22.—F. P. Fraleigh, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., told the federal board of arbitration that he must work 365 days a year to earn $69 a month. Other signal men, he said, are forced to do other work to make ends meet. The witness declared he has not taken a vacation since 1907, when he collapsed from working 12 hours a day. He said his wife is forced to work as a nurse.

The board of arbitration is considering the wage controversy between the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and the New York Central and West Shore railroads.

WHY JAPS ARE FAVORED.

Washington, July 22.—In a speech in the United States senate on Japanese immigration, Senator Works of California gave this insight on pro-Jap agitation:

"Mr. President, there is no persecution of the Japanese in California. They are employed in almost all kinds of work and go unmolested. By many employes they are preferred to white laborers, because more work for the same pay can be gotten out of them than from white laborers, and they demand less in the way of care and support. In fact, it is mostly the selfishness of the employer classes in the United States that brings the Japanese laborer here and keeps him at work in the place that should be filled by the white laborer.

"With them it is a pure matter of business. They welcome the Japanese laborer here because they can get more out of him. Japan does not insist upon her laborers coming here. She has agreed to keep them from coming here by refusing them passports, and I am convinced that she has kept the agreement in good faith. But, as I have said, her efforts are not effective. I am sorry to say it, but what we need most is not legislation against the Japanese but against the selfishness of our own people, who disregard the good of the masses of the people in their own interests."

NOLAN BILL GETS SETBACK.

Washington, July 22.—Last Monday the Nolan $3-a-day minimum wage bill received a setback.

The house, which was to have devoted this day to consideration of bills on the so-called unanimous consent calendar, adjourned after a short session on account of the death of Congressman Moss. The Nolan bill is on the calendar and Speaker Clark had promised to recognize Congressman Nolan, who, together with other members of the labor group, attempted to secure another day for the unanimous consent business, but this was objected to by Congressman Mann, Republican leader.

The bill now goes over until next month, when an attempt will be made to secure its consideration.

CITY MUST INSURE EMPLOYES.

Albany, N. Y., July 22.—Attorney General Woodbury has ruled that New York city employes, as well as those engaged by the state in hazardous occupations, must be insured under the workmen's compensation law.

The ruling, which is based upon a recent amendment to the workmen's compensation act, is very sweeping and calls for compensation insurance for all employes performing the dangerous tasks enumerated in the compensation law, whether for the state, any of the counties, cities, towns or villages.

WAGE INCREASES ORDERED.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., July 22.—The anthracite conciliation board has ordered a 3 per cent wage increase for mine laborers at Georgetown and has also ruled that they should work eight instead of 10 hours a day.

The board awards the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western company's electricians a 7 per cent wage increase. The company had offered a 3 per cent increase.

MUST COMPLY WITH LAW.

Sacramento, July 22.—The state commission of immigration and housing has forced 14 labor camps to raise their sanitary standards during the month. The commission announces it will start a campaign to compel these camps in northern California to comply with the law.

ABSENTEE VOTING LAW LEGAL.

Jefferson City, Mo., July 22.—The state supreme court has held valid the absentee voting law, which permits a voter away from home to cast his ballot wherever he may be within the state. The court rules, however, that such a voter must make affidavit he is away from home on business.

SHAMEFUL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Chicago, July 22.—C. M. Brown, state deputy inspector of factories, reports on the shameful conditions under which striking metal miners at Rosiclare, Hardin county, live. The state official says that the houses are built about four feet from the ground on posts or rocks piled on top of one another with no cement or mortar between them.

"The cisterns," he continues, "are located between each two houses, the gutters on the houses are wood, the downspouts are wood and are rotted off just above the ground, which leaves dirt, bugs and filth go into the cistern. They strain all the water through cloth before using it and then it is not fit to wash in, let alone drink. The furnishings in these homes are awful, no screens or windows, and I never saw more flies around the stock yards than I saw there. No carpets, no pictures, nothing but beds, a few chairs, table and stove is about all they have, all except the men folks barefooted. The water closets are about 50 feet back of the houses, no walk leading to same, no fences around place. It would make one's heart sick to see how they have to live and to think that they would have to strike in order to get a small raise in order to live."

The Illinois trade union movement is assisting these workers, who were forced on strike because of poor working conditions, low wages and a 12-hour day. The Farmers' union of this state is also rendering valuable assistance. In a letter to the organized farmers of Hardin county officers of the state branch say: "With the eyes of the whole state upon you, we feel that you will aid these striking brothers of toil by every means in your power."

TO HELP FARMERS SELL CROPS.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 22.—The state commission of agriculture has approved plans for community associations of farmers who will pool their products and market them under the supervision of state experts.

The purpose is to cut down the various charges between producer and consumer and to increase the profits of the agriculturalist by enabling him to sell produce that now goes to waste upon many farms.

The state agents will take charge in localities in which these farmers have a small surplus of various sorts of produce without any one of them having enough to branch out as a shipper. When the local organization among the farmers is completed arrangements will be made to provide for a selling end of the venture in the city that appears to offer the best market inducements.

WANT RIGHT OF PUBLICITY.

Olympia, Wash., July 22.—Trade unionists in this state are endeavoring to secure, through the referendum, the repeal of a so-called "anti-picketing" law, passed by the last legislature.

Legislative Agent Hughes of the state federation of labor says the law prohibits the use of newspapers by strikers, and that "the very things that this bill says working men cannot do, the national law says the workers may do," under the labor sections of the Clayton law.

OPPOSE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

San Francisco, July 22.—The San Francisco Restaurant Men's association has resolved against the eight-hour day, favored by their organized employes. The restaurant and hotel men say "the time is inopportune." The workers have been conducting an organizing campaign and announce their intention of reducing the 10-hour day to eight. The movement includes cooks, waiters and cooks' helpers.

LABORERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Kansas City, Mo., July 22.—Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' union has raised wages from 35 cents an hour to 37½ cents. These workers suspended work the first of last month because the contractors refused to consider any increase. Building operations have been at a standstill since that time.

WANT WAGES INCREASED.

Cincinnati, July 22.—Moving Picture Operators' union has submitted a new scale to their employes to replace the present agreement, which expires the first of next month. A 10 per cent increase is asked. Over a score of picture houses have already accepted the new contract.

MACHINISTS VICTIMIZED.

Allentown, Pa., July 22.—Because the International Motor company discharged the shop committee representing organized machinists, every member of this craft employed in the plant has suspended work to force the reinstatement of the victimized unionists.

U. S. SPENDS LITTLE FOR HUMAN SAFETY

Washington, July 22.—In a speech last week in the senate, Senator Ransdell called attention to the "colossal sums to prepare for killing men by wholesale" and the small sums voted to conserve human life.

The Louisiana lawmaker did not oppose the appropriations for destruction, which include nearly $680,000,000 in the naval, army and coast fortifications bills, but he insisted that too little attention is given diseases of man, which are covered by appropriations totaling only $1,917,000.

"If we are to reap full measure of success in our program of preparedness," he said, "it is necessary to begin at the fountain head and look well to the health and physical condition of our people. No matter how numerous and strong are our ships and fortifications, nor how many soldiers we have, they will be of little avail unless the men behind the guns are healthy, vigorous, and capable of great exertion."

It was estimated by the speaker that the economic loss which our nation suffers each year from typhoid fever and malaria alone aggregates $928,224,880, leaving out of entire account the sorrow, the unhappiness, the misery and the inefficiency which follow in their train. This sum, he said, is sufficient to put our country in a state of preparedness equal to that of any nation in the world, enough money to give us the largest nation afloat and the most efficient army which the world has ever seen, and enough money to pay the annual expenses of every college student in the United States, all of which is absolutely thrown away every year, as a sacrifice to two diseases which are entirely preventable.

Senator Ransdell favored a bill which provides for improved rural health through the work of trained investigators. He said the bill would pass if the government believes in the sacredness of human life and if the health of a human being "is of at least as great importance as the health of a domestic animal," for which $5,016,175 has been appropriated.

FAVORS COOLIE LABOR.

Bakersfield, Cal., July 22.—General Manager Schwerin of the Associated Oil company is applying the same methods in the Kern county oil fields that he used while manager of the Pacific Mail Steamship company. When he was connected with the boat line the seamen's act was approved. As it marked the passing of coolie labor on ships flying the American flag, Mr. Schwerin lamented long and loud. He said the law would "destroy our merchant marine." Time, however, showed that Mr. Schwerin possessed no prophetic ability and Pacific Mail reorganized with a new general manager. The company's former manager is now directing an oil company in this section. Attempts to organize the oil workers is opposed by Mr. Schwerin, who is referred to as follows by the Union Labor Journal:

"Again we insist that the methods employed by the Schwerin management of coolie labor on the Pacific Mail fleet will not work with white Americans in the Kern river oil fields.

"Mr. Schwerin will not coolieize the oil fields of California.

"In the face of collective action by employes he will find that coolie labor methods will not pay."

"PROTECTING" THE POOR.

New York, July 22.—The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor is a rather well-rounded title, but it justifies its existence by the discovery that a man—or, rather a "poor" man, need spend only $29.30 a year for clothing. The list includes one suit, valued at $10, and one pair of trousers that costs $2. If the unexpected happens to these necessary garments, the association saith not. One necktie at 25 cents, one pair of suspenders at 25 cents, and four collars at 50 cents is included in the year's raiment.

The association figures that a woman's needs can be supplied at a cost of 45 cents less than the man's. An even half dollar difference would probably be classed as extravagance.

After announcing its discovery the association gives this somewhat needless advice: "Clothes should be bought for use and not for display."

LABOR IS NOT A COMMODITY.

Washington, July 22.—In a speech in the house of representatives on the labor sections of the Clayton law, Congressman Lewis, a member of the labor group, said:

"Everybody understands that section 7 would have been written into the Sherman act in 1890 had there been any thought of the interpretation since made of that great act. Everybody knows that congress at that time had no thought of legislating with regard to the relations of employers and employe.

"While a barrel of oil is not only a commodity in the market it is a commodity before the courts; it is a commodity before the legislature. The legal attribute of a commodity is property, but the legal attribute of the workingman is citizenship."

VIOLATES "FULL CREW" LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 22.—The public service commission holds that the Pennsylvania railroad violated the "full crew" law in not providing a baggageman on a train of 10 cars, including sleeping cars, running between Pittsburg and North Philadelphia. This case has attracted much attention and is regarded as a test case. The company was in the forefront of a movement to have the last legislature repeal this law. The railroad companies succeeded, but the bill was vetoed by Governor Brumbaugh.

RURAL CREDITS BILL SIGNED.

Washington, July 22.—President Wilson has signed the rural credits bill, recently passed by both houses of congress. It provides for the establishment of a system of land mortgage banks to handle long-time loans to farmers.

This law will enable farmers to take advantage of their combined credit, as has been done by business men, who can secure short-term loans from banks and other institutions created and regulated by public authority or long-term loans by the sale of stocks and bonds.

WIRE MEN MAKE GAINS.

Canton, Ohio, July 22.—Striking electrical workers have secured a union shop agreement with one of the largest electrical concerns in this city. The other companies offer improved working conditions but insist on the non-union shop. This the electrical workers decline—they refuse to be a party to their own destruction.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WON'T BREAK STRIKES

Washington, July 22.—The United States department of labor cannot be used to break strikes.

This is the essence of a statement issued by Secretary of Labor Wilson to all officers and employes of the department "who are connected in any way with the work of labor distribution."

The former secretary of the United Mine Workers' union shows he is fully alive to the purposes of the law creating this department, "to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions and advance their opportunities for profitable employment."

He says it is not deemed advisable to publish or in any manner promulgate information concerning workmen wanted where a strike exists or is threatened, and that the department of labor is authorized to promote industrial peace rather than industrial disturbance. To furnish information in times of strike, he says, would be simply sending people from where there is a surplus of labor to places where there is already a sufficient supply of labor.

"When a strike exists or is threatened it is prima facie evidence that the workers who have had experience in that employment do not look upon it as being profitable, and that they are persons qualified to do the work is evidenced by the fact that they have been doing it.

"The department of labor cannot be made the medium through which information may be conveyed which may induce workers to accept employment where there is already a sufficient supply of labor, and where the termination of the dispute will either result in their being dismissed from the service they have accepted, or will leave other workers who have been on strike unemployed.

"Nor can it be a party to inducing men to accept employment where their presence will act as a disturbing rather than a peacemaking factor."

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Boston, July 22.—Organized street car men have signed a three years' agreement with the Boston Elevated Railway company, which affects nearly 7,000 employes. Wage increases, which at the end of three years total 3 1-2 cents an hour for the men and women employed in "train service," are granted by the new schedule. For the employes of the shop, maintenance of way, power station and miscellaneous departments a wage readjustment goes into effect which brings the wages to the standard paid to employes of private concerns. Besides this wage readjustment these employes will receive an increase of 1 cent an hour for a period of three years. It is estimated that these increases will total $2,000,000 during the life of the contract.

Portland, Me., July 22.—Local street car men have won a short strike for union recognition and the reinstatement of men discharged because they joined the union.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 22.—Officials of the Harrisburg Street Railway company refuse to arbitrate grievances of their employes or meet a union committee. The system is completely tied up as a result.

ANTI-UNIONISTS DO WAR DANCE.

Detroit, Mich., July 22.—Every anti-unionist in the state is doing a war dance because organized labor proposes to amend the state constitution limiting the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes.

Labor asks that the principles embodied in the Clayton law be placed in the state constitution. In reply to this claim the antis present "argument" similar to the following from the Saturday Night, published in this city:

"Take the protection of the law away from the employer's property! Make it possible to destroy the employer's factory and his goods, if he does not accede to any demand made upon him! Tie and gag the circuit judge to prevent him from coming to the assistance of workers upon whom felonious assault is being made! Mob the employer and all his defenders, but do not let the law intervene! These are the preachments and the demands of organized labor in Michigan today."

FREEDOM VS. DOLLARS.

San Francisco, July 22.—"Democracy undoubtedly is not as efficient as autocracy," says the Labor Clarion, "but the people are better satisfied with it. This being true, whenever we come to the fork of the road where we must choose between the two those who are more interested in all humanity than in increasing the wealth of the few will take the road of democracy. At such a time men can be properly branded by the course they pursue."

OPPOSE PRISON LABOR.

Omaha, Neb., July 22.—Organized labor is opposing the plan of city commissioners to work city prisoners on the streets and buildings in competition with free labor.

GIRL CIGAR MAKERS STRIKE

Detroit, Mich., July 22.—The strike of non-union cigar makers has spread to 17 shops and now includes over 7,000 employes, mostly women and girls, who are demanding higher wages, abolition of the fining system and the many schemes by which they are compelled to make cigars without pay.

The American Federation of Labor, the Cigarmakers' International union and the local trade union movement are giving these workers every possible aid.

Several years ago a number of cigar companies formed a combination to devise methods to secure labor at the lowest possible cost. This resulted in such conditions that the executive council of the A. F. of L., under instructions of the Philadelphia convention, assigned a representative to investigate. It was found that the companies started a school in which female students were taught a part of the cigar trade.

In order that the school might be self-supporting, they made it a cigar factory and named it the Detroit Ideal Cigar company. Young girls were compelled to sign an agreement to learn whatever part of the cigar trade was assigned to them, to work 26 days without pay and to pay the company $5 in advance for such instruction, besides furnishing their own tools. If they could not pay $5 in advance, they paid $6 in installments. After 26 days these girls were given positions in the various factories. Here they work six months for a certificate of $1 per week, payable at the expiration of six months, on condition that they work steadily during this time. If an employe, on account of illness or other incapacitation, worked a day less than the time required, the company would refuse to cash the $1 certificates.